



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Marine Resources Commission

Building 96

380 Fenwick Road

Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Steven G. Bowman
Commissioner

March 30, 2020

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

**RE: 2020 SEASON EXTENSION NOTICE FOR VIRGINIA'S
DIRECTED OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY**

Pursuant to the authority afforded to the Commissioner by the Governor's Executive Order 51(C) and in agreement with the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission is waiving the listed dates in 4 VAC 20-620-40 – C. The offshore directed summer flounder fishery will remain open until midnight Thursday, April 30, 2020. All other regulations pertaining to the summer flounder fishery remain in effect.

Legally licensed vessels in the Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery shall be held to the following provisions:

- The landing limit for the Offshore (EEZ) Fishery from February 24 through April 30, 2020 is 12,500 pounds. Vessels may land a maximum of 12,500 pounds for the entire period of February 24 through April 30, 2020.
- It is unlawful for any vessel to land in Virginia any amount of summer flounder more than once in any consecutive 5-day period.
- Only vessels holding a valid 2020 Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License shall possess summer flounder harvested from the EEZ.
- It is unlawful to possess aboard any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of summer flounder in excess of the total of the Virginia landing limit (12,500 pounds) and the amount of the legal North Carolina or New Jersey landing limit or trip limit.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

- Once offloading of any vessel is complete, and the total weight of the landed summer flounder has been determined, the buyer shall use the VMRC online reporting system to inform the Marine Resources Commission of the vessel name and corresponding total weight of Summer Flounder landed.
- It shall be unlawful, for any person, to offload, from a boat or vessel, for commercial purposes, any Summer Flounder from of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- It shall be unlawful for any person harvesting summer flounder outside of Virginia waters to possess aboard any vessel, in Virginia, any amount of summer flounder, once it has been projected and announced that 100% of the quota has been taken.
- It shall be unlawful for any licensed seafood buyer or federally permitted seafood buyer to fail to use the VMRC online reporting system to inform the Marine Resources Commission prior to a vessel offloading Summer Flounder harvested outside of Virginia. <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/harvest/index.php>. The buyer shall provide to the Commission the name of the vessel and its captain and the anticipated or approximate offloading time.

Any boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board or entering Virginia waters for safe harbor shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of such entry into Virginia waters. Authorization for safe harbor must be approved by the Commissioner. Any vessel declaring a need for safe harbor may be subject to inspection by the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Jill Ramsey at (757) 247-2243.